

Project 1- International Conference on Health and Environmental Effects

At the July 2001 meeting, the two delegations agreed to host an international conference entitled "Joint Vietnam-United States Scientific Conference on Human Health and Environmental Effects of Agent Orange/Dioxin." This conference is expected to address the issues of scientific information exchange on dioxin related research (Topic 3) and serve as a foundation for developing research agendas in the two key collaborative research areas described above (Topics 1 and 2). Information exchange regarding the latest findings on dioxin health effects research, particularly research published since the November 1993 International Symposium, "Herbicides in War: Long-Term Effects on Man and Nature" will aid the collaborating partners and the international scientific community in understanding what has been seen in Vietnam and elsewhere and should identify critical gaps in our understanding of diseases associated with dioxin exposure. In addition, methodologies for the identification, treatment, and remediation of dioxins in the environment are changing rapidly at this time and discussions of newer methods are necessary to proceed with this collaborative research program. Specific topics to be discussed will be proposed by an organizing committee (being formed) and agreed to by Drs. Sinh and Portier as heads of their respective delegations for this bi-national research collaboration.

Tentative Date: April 2002

Venue: Location in Vietnam to be mutually determined

Organizing Committee: Three to five scientists (Government and Non-government) from each collaborating country

Format: Plenary and topical sessions to address critical issues on human health and environmental effects of Agent Orange/Dioxin; other activities might include training sessions, banquet, and field trips.

Participants: Invited speakers and discussants (paid travel expenses and per diem) and interested parties (scientists, representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), journalists, etc.)

Total Attendees: To be determined by venue

Conference Report: A report similar to that of the 1993 meeting is planned

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